

Florida

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE VSRS-14	SUBJECT: VESSEL REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS	
DESCRIPTION AND USE: <p>THIS PROCEDURE IS PROVIDED TO ASSIST TAX COLLECTOR EMPLOYEES, LICENSE PLATE AGENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES IN UNDERSTANDING VESSEL REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS.</p>		
<p>I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:</p> <p>Section 328.48(1)(a), Florida Statutes, provides that a registration is not required for any vessel that is not used on the waters of this state.</p> <p>Section 328.48(2), Florida Statutes, provides that each vessel operated, used or stored on the waters of this state must be registered as a commercial or recreational vessel as defined in this chapter and Section 327.02, Florida Statutes, unless it meets one of the exemptions in section II.</p> <p>II. REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS:</p> <p>A. A vessel operated, used and stored exclusively on private lakes and ponds.</p> <p>B. A vessel owned by the United States Government.</p> <p>C. A vessel used EXCLUSIVELY as a ship's lifeboat.</p> <p>D. A non-motor powered vessel less than 16 feet in length or a non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell or rowing scull, regardless of length.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Section 379.361(2)(c), Florida Statutes, provides that any vessel (even non-motor powered), harvesting restricted species in excess of any bag limit or when fishing under a commercial quota or in commercial quantities shall have a commercial vessel registration.</p>		
<p><u>Historical Revisions:</u></p> <p>1/13/10 Updated "Description and Use" section, added and updated applicable statutes and language in sections I and II, and corrected statute cited in Exception.</p>		
<p><i>Revision(s) to this procedure: Statutory Review. Added links to statutes and Historical Revisions section.</i></p>		
EFFECTIVE DATE Immediately	REVISION DATE 08/10/18	PAGE # VSRS-14-01